



Memo

To: Appropriations Committee
From: Rand Sean Gingery
Date: March 5, 2007
Re: Proposed Senate Bill No. **1339** and 481, House Bill No. 5741 and 5757

Thank you for allowing me to speak before you today. A little over a year ago I learned that my 2 ½ year old son is at increased risk for Sudden Cardiac Arrest. He has a condition called Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy. A disease that affects 1 in 500 which causes thickening of the heart muscle. This and many other heart abnormalities often go undetected during childhood. The disease is often detected much later in life among the elderly population.

Strangely, we do consider ourselves "luck" in that we are aware of Tyler's illness. Undiagnosed, this disease can rear it's ugly head in adolescences in the form of sudden cardiac arrest. This is when the heart stops unexpectedly and the person dies—unless a lifesaving jolt from a defibrillator is applied. Ideally, this jolt should be applied within 2 minutes of collapse, other wise the victim can have irreversible brain damage or even die.

With proposed bill 1339 trained personnel would not have the concern of being sued, if something were to go wrong in using the machine. This is unlikely, as the machines are "idiot proof."

Last summer, Dwight Turton (a twin) became the second son to in his family to loose his life to Sudden Cardiac Arrest. He was a student at Weaver High School in Hartford. He was playing soccer when he collapsed. This tragedy was one of many that may have been avoided if a life saving defibrillator were available.

Teachers can also benefit from the device. In September, a 42 year-old teacher in Ohio lost his life while teaching his 6th grade English class.

Another boy in the mid-west collapsed during Gym class and went into cardiac arrest. CPR was performed, and EMT's were close by, and were able to give him the needed shock. He now has an AICD which has fired several times, protecting his life.

Several school districts have elected to install defibrillators, including Bolton. There are economies of scale that can be achieved through a state wide implementation.

On March 6, 2006 Lynn Talit presented a very compelling argument for AED's to be installed at all public places. Her husband died on an airplane prior to the requirement for AEDs. There were two cardiologists on the plane, but without the necessary life saving device they were unable to save him.